250 Often Confused Words

Below is a list of more than 250 words that speakers and writers of English often confuse. They are called *false cognates* because they sound or are written so similarly that they are often confused. Even if you are an excellent writer, you should read through this list; otherwise, how will you know if you are confusing any words? We will soon have a quiz that will help you check your knowledge of the most common false English cognates.

- The list broken into several shorter pages
- The Confused Word Quizzes

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• A •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
a lot **allot**	**A lot** is two words meaning "much": A lot of bologna was left over from the party.
a while **awhile**	**A while** is two words meaning "a short period of time": I will meet you in a while.
a **an** **and**	**A** is an indefinite article to be used before nouns beginning with a consonant: *a* photograph, *a* tree, *a* horse. **An** is to be used before nouns beginning with a vowel (or vowel sound): *an* apple, *an* hour, *an* elephant. **And** is a conjunction used between nouns in a list: A blanket and picnic basket are needed for the afternoon.
accede	**Accede** means "to agree or allow": Hiram Cheaply

exceed	finally *acceded* to accepting the presidency of the company.
	Exceed means "to go beyond, to surpass": The amount of alcohol in his blood *exceeded* the previous record.
accept **except**	**Accept** means "to take willingly": Miss Deeds *accepted* the cup of hot tea even without a saucer.
	Except is a preposition meaning "excluding": Everyone was disappointed with the party *except* Ida Goodtime.
adapt **adept** **adopt**	**Adapt** means "to adjust": Minnie Miles quickly adapted to living away from home.
	Adept means "skilled": Lucille is adept at speaking languages.
	Adopt means to "accept as your own": It was difficult to adopt only one puppy from the animal shelter.
adverse **averse**	**Adverse** means "unfavorable, hostile": Those driving in adverse winter conditions may be putting themselves at risk.
	Averse means "unwilling or repelled": She was immediately averse to the idea.
advice **advise**	**Advice** is a noun meaning "an opinion given with the intention of helping": My mother still gives me advice even though I'm 40 years old.
	Advise is a verb meaning "to give counsel or advice": The meteorologist advised listeners to stay indoors because of the extremely cold temperatures.
affect **effect**	**Affect** is most often used as a verb meaning "to influence": The president's speech affected his views of the upcoming election.
	The verb **effect** means "to cause": Batting her eyes

	so flirtatiously effected a strong desire in Rathbone to embrace Mirabelle.
aid **aide**	**Aid** is help or assistance given: Every Christmas the community gives aid to those less fortunate.
	An **aide** is a person who helps: Frieda Gogh worked five years as a teacher's aide.
airs **heirs**	**Airs** refers to snobbish and artificial behavior: Portia Radclyffe put on airs at the fine dinner party just because she had a few diamonds.
	Heirs are people who, because they are family, will inherit an estate or title.
all right **alright**	**All right** is a phrase meaning "everything is right": Is all right here?
	Alright is a single word meaning "OK": Is everything alright here?
all together **altogether**	**All together** is applied to people or things that are being treated as a whole: We always had fun when we were all together. To double check this usage, try separating the two words: We all had fun when were together.
	Altogether is an adverb that means "completely or totally": Using a flashlight in bed is an altogether new approach to reading.
all ways **always**	**All ways** means "by every means or method": Dirk tried all ways to navigate the storm.
	Always means "forever": Sue St. Marie always responded calmly during emergency situations.
allude **elude**	**Allude** means "to suggest indirectly": Leticia can't speak to her husband without alluding to his affair with Martha Snodgrass.
	Elude means "to dodge or escape": Serious relationships always seemed to elude him.

allusion **illusion**	An **allusion** is a subtle reference or hint: Rita Book made an allusion to the most recent novel she read in our conversation yesterday.
	An **illusion** is a deception, mirage, or a wild idea: The teacher said she had no illusions about how much work teaching demands.
almost **most**	**Almost** means "nearly all": Almost all my friends have graduated from college by now.
	Most is superlative of *more*, meaning "the greatest or to the highest degree": Chuck is the most computer savvy guy I know, or Chuck cooked a most delicious supper.
aloud **allowed**	**Aloud** means "speaking so that someone else can hear you": Read this paragraph aloud.
	Allowed means "having permission": His boss allowed him to take the weekend off.
already, all ready	**Already** is an adverb that indicates an action is completed by a certain time: Herschel had already finished that whole pie.
	All ready means "everything is completely prepared": The children were all ready and bundled up warmly to go caroling on the snowy evening.
alternately **alternatively**	**Alternately** means "taking turns": We paddled alternately so neither of us would get too tired.
	Alternatively means "as an option": Instead of going by train, we could have gone alternatively by car.
ambiguous **ambivalent**	**Ambiguous** is describes a phrase or act with more than one meaning, or one that is unclear: The ending of the short story is ambiguous; we don't know if he died or continue his journey.
	Ambivalent means "uncertainty and having conflicting attitudes and feelings": He was ambivalent as to which candidate to vote for.

amiable amicable	**Amiable** refers to a person who is friendly, good-natured, and pleasant: Susan was very amiable and liked immediately.
	Amicable means "friendly and peaceable", and is used to describe agreements or relationships between groups or people: After years of disagreement, the two countries came to an amicable agreement.
among between	**Among** is used for three or more: Shirley had to choose among three universities she might attend.
	Between is used for two things: I couldn't decide between blue and green.
amoral immoral	**Amoral** means "having no principles at all, good or bad": Percy is totally amoral; he is either helping others or helping himself at their expense.
	Immoral means "bad, lacking good principles": Everything his brother does harms others whether it benefits him or not.
amount number	**Amount** is used with uncountable and abstract nouns: a large amount of money, amount of work, amount of happiness or amount of dirt.
	Number is used with countable and concrete plural expressions: a number of people, a number of attempts, a number of novels, a number of trials.
amused bemused	**Amused** is when something is entertaining: The children were amused by watching the kittens play.
	Bemused means "bewildered" or "lost in thought": George was bemused by the unexpected ending to the movie.
annual annul	**Annual** means "yearly": We must pay an annual tax.
	Annul means "to make void or invalid": They want

	to annul the marriage.
any one **anyone**	**Any one** means "any one person": Any one of you may go, but not all of you.
	Anyone means "anybody, any person at all": Anyone can chew gum and walk at the same time.
anyway **anywhere** **nowhere** **anyways** **anywheres** **nowheres**	**Anyway**, **anywhere**, and **nowhere** are the correct forms.
apart **a part**	**Apart** is an adverb meaning "in pieces": My plan for my vacation fell apart.
	A part is a noun meaning "one section of": A part of my heart left when he did.
appraise **apprise**	**Appraise** is to assess or estimate the worth of: to appraise a diamond.
	Apprise is to inform or notify: the officer apprised us of our rights.
arcane **archaic**	**Arcane** refers to things known and understood by few people: Amanda Lynn teaches arcane theories of modern music at the college.
	Archaic refers to things very, very old and outdated: The Oxford English Dictionary contains many words that are archaic.
as **like**	**As** may be used as a conjunction that introduce dependent clauses: George talks as his father does. Informally, it may also be used as a preposition in comparative constructions like: Jean-Claude is as forgetful as me (or as I am).
	Like is a preposition is followed by a noun or pronoun: George looks like his mother. It may also

	be used as an adjective meaning "similar": George and I have like minds.
ascent **assent**	**Ascent** is an upward movement: Leo's ascent to the presidency of the company came slowly.
	Assent means "to agree to": Greta could not begin the project unless management assented.
ascetic **aesthetic**	An **ascetic** is a person who renounces all material comforts, often for religious devotion: the young man lead his ascetic lifestyle despite his parents' plans for him. It can also be used as an adjective: Ethan Asia led an ascetic lifestyle.
	Aesthetic refers to the philosophy of beauty or the pleasing qualities of something: The statuette Leander created was lacking in aesthetic qualities.
ascribe **describe**	**Ascribe** means "to attribute to": She ascribed her feelings of jealousy to insecurity.
	Describe means "to show what something is by drawing a picture with words": Describe in detail what the man looked like.
aspersion **dispersion**	**Aspersion** is slander, a damaging remark: The campaign was filled with one aspersion after another.
	Dispersion is the act of scattering: The dispersion of seeds was irregular because he sowed the seeds by hand.
assent **ascent**	See ascent, assent.
assistance **assistants**	**Assistance** is help or aid: the nurses gave assistance to the patients.
	Assistants are more than one assistant, a person who gives help: the emergency room assistants were ready to help anyone who came through the door. (See also **patience** and **patients**.)

assure **ensure** **insure**	**Assure** means "to guarantee": He assured her it was a quality item.
	Ensure means "to make sure by double checking": The custodian ensured the doors to the school were locked at night.
	Insure means "to provide insurance": It is wise to insure your house against flood, fire, or theft.
auger **augur**	An **auger** is a tool used for digging holes: If you want to ice fish, you need to first drill a hole in the ice with an auger.
	Augur means "to predict, forecast": Leroy's inheritance augured happiness for him in the future.

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• B •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
bad **badly**	**Bad** is an adjective used after verbs like am, feel, is, seem, and become: They felt bad. (Using badly here would mean that their skill at feeling is poor).
	Badly is an adverb used after other verbs: They played badly. Badly can also mean "greatly": They needed food badly.
baited **bated**	**Baited** usually refers to traps: Baiting deer in order to hunt them is illegal in most states.
	Bated is seldom used but means "reduced, abated": Jessica bated her pace to let her running mate catch up.
bare **bear**	**Bare** means "naked": Walking in grass with bare feet is refreshing.
	Bear is the animal, and also means "to carry":

	Sherman must bear the burden of flunking math twice.
bazaar **bizarre**	**Bazaar** is an exhibition, market, or fair: The Saturday morning bazaar is worth seeing even if you buy nothing.
	Bizarre means "weird and unworldly": Barry told us a bizarre story last night.
belief **believe**	**Belief** is a noun: He had strong beliefs.
	Believe is a verb: She believes she can do anything.
beside **besides**	**Beside** means "next to": Place the dishes beside the sink.
	Besides is an adverb or preposition that means "also, additionally": I would enjoy going on a vacation besides.
better **had better**	**Had better** is the correct form, used when giving advice that hints at an undesirable consequence if not followed: You had better go to the doctor. Don't leave out **have**.
between **among**	See among, between.
biannual **biennial**	**Biannual** is twice in one year: My trip to the dentist is a biannual event.
	Biennial means "every two years": These flowers are biennial; they bloom every two years.
bimonthly **semimonthly**	**Bimonthly** means "every two months": We order from the co-op bimonthly.
	Semimonthly means "twice a month (biweekly)": We have our house cleaned semimonthly.
blithe	**Blithe**, an adjective, means "lighthearted and carefree": A blithe mood overcomes us in the

lithe	spring.
	Lithe is also an adjective but it means "flexible, graceful, and supple": The lithe movements of the yoga instructor impressed us all.
blonde **blond**	**Blonde** describes women: Brunettes have just as much fun as blondes (blonde women).
	Blond describes men: Sean was not a natural blond. This distinction is not necessary though: **blond** is now generally accepted for both men and women.
board **bored**	**Board** means a few things. One is "a long sheet of wood": Hiram had to cut the board to make the shelves. It also means "a committee": The board of directors met to decide the fate of the school. Lastly, it can mean "to get onto": She boarded the ship.
	Bored means "not interested": She is bored by the dry lecture.
bore **boar** **boor**	A **bore** is a boring or tiresome person or thing: Jasper is such a bore when he talks about his cats!
	A **boar** is a male pig: Wild boars abound in this forest.
	A **boor** is an unrefined, vulgar person: What a boor Guy was to get drunk at the wedding and embarrass everyone.
born **borne**	**Born** is newly coming into life: A child was born at 12:01 New Year's day.
	Borne means "carried": All gossip is borne by an ill wind.
borrow **lend** **loan**	**Borrow** is to receive something from someone temporarily: to borrow a book and then return it.
	Lend is a verb that mean "to temporarily give something to someone": Henry will lend (or loan) Francine a book.

	Loan is a noun: a bank loan. Loan is often used in American English as a verb meaning "to lend": Loan me a book, please.
braise **braze**	**Braise** means "to cook (usually meat) slowly in liquid": Braised meat is usually tender.
	To **braze** is to solder or create with metals such as bronze: Shirley brazed a statue of a famous Civil War leader.
brake **break**	**Brake** means "to stop": You should brake slowly on ice.
	Break means "to smash": To break a mirror brings seven years of worse luck than you are having now.
breath **breathe**	**Breath** is a noun meaning "the air pulled into the lungs": Take a deep breath and relax.
	Breathe, with an E on the end, is a verb: Just breathe deeply and calm down.
bridal **bridle**	**Bridal** has to do a bride and her wedding: June May threw her bridal bouquet to the screaming crowd of single women.
	A **bridle** is a halter or restraint, such as a horse bridle: Old Frosty didn't like the bridle over his head.
by **buy** **bye**	**By** is a preposition meaning "next to": Park the car by the house.
	Buy means "purchase": Grandpa buys an ice cream cone every Sunday afternoon.
	Bye means "farewell or good-bye": Bye, now; I'll see you later.

●|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|●

• C •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
can't hardly	This expression is a nonstandard double negative (**hardly** is considered negative), so avoid it. It is better to say **can hardly**: I can hardly hear you over the noise of the party! Hardly.
canvas **canvass**	**Canvas** is cloth or fabric: a canvas bag to bring to the beach.
	Canvass means "to conduct a survey or examine thoroughly", or "to seek votes": She canvassed all the stores before she found the right dress.
capital **capitol**	A **capital** is where the seat of government is: The capital of the United States is Washington DC. Capital can also mean "wealth" or "a large letter".
	The **Capitol** (usually capitalized) is the actual building in which the government and legislature meets: We will travel to the Capitol this weekend.
censor **sensor** **censure**	**Censor** is to prohibit free expression: The principal censored all references to smoking in school publications.
	A **sensor** is something that interprets stimulation: The lights are turned on by a movement sensor.
	Censure is rebuke, harsh criticism: Morty Skustin was severely censured for putting the frog in the water cooler.
cite **site** **sight**	**Cite** means "to quote or mention": He cited a famous theorist in his speech.
	Site is a noun meaning "a place": At which site will we stage the party?
	Sight is a noun meaning "view": The sight of the New York City skyline is spectacular.

climactic **climatic**	**Climactic** refers to the peak: Wendell sneezed right at the climactic moment of a movie.
	Climatic refers to the climate and weather: New Monia is known for its dramatic climatic changes.
coarse **course**	**Coarse** is an adjective meaning "rough, big-grained, not fine": We need to use coarse sandpaper to remove the paint from this wood.
	Course is a noun referring to a direction (the course of a ship) or a series of lectures on one subject (a history course in college): The poetry course Stu deBaker took in colldge changed the course of his life.
collaborate **corroborate**	**Collaborate** means "to work together": Collaborate with the people on your team.
	Corroborate means "to support with evidence" or "prove true": The testimony was corroborated with evidence of his innocence.
complement **compliment**	**Complement** means "to supplement" or "make complete": Their two personalities complement each other.
	Compliment means "to praise or congratulate": She received a compliment on her sense of fashion.
compose **comprise**	**Compose** means to "make up" and is often used in the passive voice: The class is composed of students of several nationalities.
	Comprise means "have, consist of, or include": Students of several nationalities comprise the class. A rule to remember would be that the whole comprises its parts, and the parts compose the whole.
concurrent **consecutive**	**Concurrent** simultaneous or happening at the same time as something else: concurrent blizzards in three different states.

	Consecutive means "successive or one after another": The state had three consecutive blizzards that month.
conform confirm	**Conform** means "to be similar to": Some schools conform their students by using uniforms.
	Confirm is to make sure or double check: to confirm a flight reservation.
congenial congenital	**Congenial** describes something likeable, suitable to taste: They enjoy the congenial surroundings in their home.
	Congenital refers to a condition present at birth because of heredity: Raymond has a congenital heart defect.
connote denote	**Connote** means to "imply or suggest": 'Home' connotes warmth and safety.
	Denote means to "indicate specifically, to mean": 'Home' denotes the place where you live.
conscience conscious	**Conscience** is the feeling or knowledge of right and wrong: My conscience wouldn't allow me to compete with someone so much weaker than me.
	Conscious refers to being awake and aware: Molly Coddle was still conscious after banging her head on the headboard.
continual continuous	**Continual** means "repeated with breaks in between": We need continual rain throughout the summer for crops to grow.
	Continuous means "without stopping": The continuous drumming of the rain on the windows put Herman to sleep.
convince persuade	**Convince** is to cause another to feel sure or believe something to be true: Well, Argyle Greenpasture has convinced me that aliens do exist.

	Persuade is to talk someone into doing something: Percy persuaded me to help him wash his car.
co-operation **corporation**	**Co-operation** means "working together": I would like to thank you for your cooperation with us on the project.
	A **corporation** is a large company: Presidents of large corporations receive tens of millions of dollars in salary.
corps **core** **corpse**	**Corps** (pronounced 'core') is an organization of people dedicated to a single goal: Lucinda joined the Peace Corps after college.
	A **core** is the center of a fruit containing seeds: Bartholomew eats apples, core and all.
	A **corpse** is a dead body: The corpse of Danny's dog was lovingly laid to rest in the back yard.
correspondence **correspondents**	**Correspondence** is agreement or written communication such as letters or news articles: Phil and Rachel continued their correspondence for years.
	Correspondents are those who write this communication: Rhoda Lott has lived abroad as a news correspondent for several years.
could not care less	This expression is often confusing for English language learners. It is always used with a negative and means that you really don't care at all: Since she was sick, Mona could not care less about doing her homework, or Mona could not care less which color sweater she wore.
council **counsel** **consul**	A **council** is a group of people called together to meet on an issue: The school board council meets every Thursday evening.
	Counsel is advice: I always go to Clyde for counsel on the tough decision in my life.
	A **consul** is a diplomat appointed to protect the

	citizens and commercial interests of one country in another: If you need help starting a business in France, talk to the US consul in Paris.
creak **creek**	**Creak** can be the noun or verb for a squeak or groan: The creak of the floorboards alerted Nell that Bernard was sneaking up on her.
	A **creek** is a small stream: The kids loved to play in the creek on a hot summer day.
credible **creditable**	**Credible** means "believable or reliable": There is no credible evidence that it was I who broke the lamp.
	Creditable means "worthy of praise or respect": I couldn't have broken the lamp because I have a creditable alibi.
criteria **criterion**	**Criterion** is singular: There is only one criterion for this job.
	Criteria is plural: Several criteria need to be met in order for us to move forward.
custom **costume**	A **custom** is a cultural tradition: It is a custom in Japan to remove your shoes when entering a home.
	A **costume** is the outfit worn to represent a particular time, event, or culture: What is your costume for Halloween going to be?

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• D •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
dairy **diary**	A **dairy** is a farm where milk and milk products are produced: Madeleine grew up on a dairy and knows how to churn butter.

	A **diary** is the daily journal kept: Rhoda Book writes in her diary for two hours every night.
deduction induction	**Deduction** is drawing a general principle from particular facts or instances: I've seen hundreds of robins and they all have red breasts. (General principle-all robins have red breasts.)
	Induction is the explanation of particular facts or instances from a general principle: That bird must be a robin because it has a red breast. (General principle-all robins have red breasts.)
denote connote	See connote, denote.
describe ascribe	See ascribe, describe.
desert dessert	**Desert** means "to abandon" (and can also be a noun, meaning "a wasteland"): Cooley deserted his family when they all got tattoos and lip piercings.
	Dessert is the sweet course of a meal: The whole family wanted to have cake for dessert.
device devise	A **device** is an instrument used to perform a task: This device will peel apples for you.
	Devise is to create or invent: They will devise a scheme to continue the business.
diary dairy	See dairy, diary.
divers diverse	**Divers** means "several": You can take that statement in divers ways.
	Diverse means "different or varied": There are many diverse cultures in the world.
different from	**Different from** is the standard usage when

different than	comparing two things: Suzie's sweater is different from Mary's. Don't say, "Different than something else."
discreet **discrete**	**Discreet** means "modest and prudent": Please be discreet about the surprise party, we don't want her to find out. **Discrete** means "separate and distinct": Even though they were married, they kept their money in two discrete accounts.
disinterested **uninterested**	**Disinterested** is an adjective that means "unbiased or impartial": Since she had nothing at stake, she was a disinterested party in the matter. **Uninterested** means "not interested": Anita Job was just uninterested in the offer.
dispersion **aspersion**	See aspersion, dispersion.

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• E •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
e. g. **i. e.**	**e. g.** is a Latin abbreviation meaning "for example": Lucille doesn't like fruit, e.g. pears, apples, grapes, and bananas. **i. e.** is a Latin abbreviation meaning "that is (to say)": Myrtle had to leave the room, i.e. she had to go to the bathroom.
each other **one another**	Use **each other** when only two objects are involved: The twins love each other. Use **one another** in referring to more than two objects: The triplets all love one another.

each **every**	These are singular distributive pronouns; use them with a singular verb. **Each** refers to a single individual in a group: Each of us voted differently.
	Every refers to all the members of a group inclusively: Every one of us voted the same.
effect **affect**	See affect, effect.
elicit **illicit**	**Elicit** is a verb that means "to draw out": The teacher had trouble eliciting responses from the students.
	Illicit is an adjective meaning "illegal or illegitimate": Illicit drugs or illicit behavior may help you enter jail.
elude **allude**	See allude, elude.
emigrant **immigrant**	An **emigrant** is a person who leaves his native country to settle in another: The emigrants left everything behind in search of something more.
	An **immigrant** refers is person who moves to a new country: Many immigrants settle in this country every year.
emigrate **immigrate**	**Emigrate from** means "to leave one's country": Frances emigrated to the US.
	Immigrate to means "to settle in another country": Her family immigrated to the US four generations ago.
eminent **emanant** **imminent**	**Eminent** means "of high rank, outstanding, or prestigious": An eminent author came to read at the university.
	Emanant means "sending or issuing forth": Emanant thoughts like those should be kept to yourself.
	Imminent means "close to happening or near":

	Everyone waited anxiously for an imminent storm predicted to arrive shortly.
enervate innervate	**Innervate** means "to supply with nerves or vitality": The therapist innervated the shoulders with massage.
	Enervate is to weaken or destroy the vitality of: The negative attitude enervated her enthusiasm.
entomology etymology	**Entomology** refers to the study of insects: Donald couldn't be afraid of bugs if he wanted to get a degree in entomology.
	Etymology is the study of the history of words and where they come from: The etymology of *mortify* goes back to Latin mortuus "dead". is nice.
etc.	**Etc.** is Latin for et cetera and means "and so on": You need to bring plates, knives, forks, spoons, etc. to the table. It is a good idea, however, to just finish the list, not letting it end with **etc.** But if you must, use a phrase like "and so on", "and so forth".
ethereal ephemeral	**Ethereal** describes something that is light, airy, and intangible: Ethereal clouds hovered above; Everything in the ballroom looked ethereal.
	Ephemeral refers to anything lasting for a short period: Truth can be an ephemeral thing; A creek can be ephemeral if it disappears in the middle of summer.
everyone every one	**Everyone** means "each person": Everyone in the room must leave immediately.
	Every one refers to each thing or person individually: Felice put every one of the eggs in the basket.
exceed accede	See accede, exceed.

except **accept**	See accept, except.
explicit **implicit**	**Explicit** means "clear and direct": Please give me explicit directions.
	Implicit means "indirectly, with some parts understood": They implicitly agreed to never talk on the subject again.

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• F •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
fair **fare**	A **fair** is an exhibition of farm produce usually with a collection of rides and attractions: Every year our family goes to the state fair.
	A **fare** is the fee you pay to ride public transportation: The fare to ride the bus is affordable in our town.
farther **further**	**Farther** has to do with distance: How much farther is it to Poughkeepsie?
	Further means "additional" or "more": Please give me further information about the best route to Poughkeepsie.
faze **phase**	**Faze** is to distress or disturb: The scrutiny of the media didn't faze Sharon.
	A **phase** is a period of development or a period of time in a cycle of events: Stuart went through a phase when all he did was eat hot dogs.
few **less**	**Few** is used when talking about things that can be counted: Lureen has a few ideas; also a few keys, few clouds, few values, few diseases.
	Less is used when talking about things that can't

	be counted: Lureen shows less perseverance than we expected; also less distance, less pollution, less rain.
figuratively literally	**Figuratively** refers to metaphoric speech, not realistic or exact: To say, "Horace died laughing," is to speak figuratively.
	Literally refers to realistic or exact speech: If Horace literally died laughing, he must be buried (but it was not such a bad way to go).
flammable inflammable	These two words both mean "easily set on fire": a highly flammable/inflammable substance. However, **flammable** is now used as a warning to avoid misinterpreting the prefix *in-* as negation.
flare flair	**Flare** is to increase greatly, burn brightly, or something that provides a bright flame: The fire in the grill flared brightly when Eva tossed gasoline on it.
	Flair refers to a sense of style or a talent: Dutch Masters has a flair for entertaining a group of men.
flaunt flout	**To flaunt** means "to show off": Maud Lynn Dresser likes to flaunt her jewels at parties.
	To flout means "to show scorn or contempt for": Larry flouts the speed limit in every state when it suits his schedule.
forbear forebear	**Forbear** means "to refrain from": The children simply could not forbear laughing in the library.
	A **forebear** is an ancestor or forefather: Our forebears who founded this country centuries ago.
foreword forward	A **foreword** is a short introduction at the beginning of a book usually written by someone other than the author: The foreword of the book explains how its thesis fits in with current thinking.
	Forward is an adverb indicating movement ahead

	or toward the front: Priscilla moves forward slowly in the line at the grocery store.
forth **fourth**	**Forth** means "forward, from this point": Barry moved forth without looking back.
	Fourth indicates an object that comes between No. 3 and No. 5: Dustin Moppet just finished cleaning the fourth floor.
foul **fowl**	**Foul** can means "offensive, rotten, or unfavorable": Foul language, foul meat, and foul weather are unacceptable at a picnic.
	Fowl refers to birds, especially domestic ones: Chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys are considered fowl.
found **founded**	**Found** is the past tense of find: I found my glasses only after I had stepped on them!
	Founded is past tense of the verb **found**, meaning "to set up or establish": My ancestors were the ones who founded this country.
founder **flounder**	**Founder** means "to run aground": The boat foundered on a shoal in the storm.
	Flounder means "to move clumsily, with difficulty" or "to blunder": Gladys Friday is floundering in college.

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• G •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
gibe **gybe** **jibe**	**Gibe** means "to taunt, jeer, make fun of": His classmates gibed Billy Earl for wearing his underwear over his clothes.
	Gybe means "to swing a fore-and-aft sail from one

	side of a sailboat to the other to change course": When the wind shifted, Felix gybed when he should have tacked.
	Jibe refers to being in agreement: Our views on everything from baseball to Socrates seem to jibe.
gorilla **guerrilla**	A **gorilla** is a large ape: Gorillas live in the African tropical forest.
	A **guerrilla** is a member of irregular military that uses surprise attacks on its enemy: Guerrilla warfare uses tactics such as espionage, sabotage, and ambush.

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• H •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
hail **hale**	**Hail** means "to greet or to come from": She hails from California. Hail also means "balls of ice": Hail damaged the crops.
	Hale means "sound or healthy": Minnie Miles is hale and hearty enough to run five miles daily.
hanged **hung**	**Hanged** is past tense of hang in the sense of executing someone by using a rope around the neck: Outlaws in the Old West were hanged when they could be caught.
	Hung is the past tense of hang, but is used for things: Lyda Cain's son never hung up his clothes. Just remember hanged is used for people (Yuck!), and hung is used for other things.
hardly	This is a word used in a negative sense meaning "barely": Lyle could hardly keep his eyes open at the lecture by Rhoda Book.
herd	A **herd** is a group of animals: Nonnie saw a herd of

heard	cows in the pasture.
	Heard is the past tense of **hear**: Zelda heard the bells ringing for the glorious leader who had recently died.
here **hear**	**Here** refers to the place where you are: You should come here more often.
	Hear is to listen with the ears: Am I speaking loud enough for you to hear me?
heroin **heroine**	**Heroin** is an illicit drug: Heroin is a very addicting substance.
	A heroine is a female hero in real life or in a story: Marge was treated like a heroine when she delivered the baby in a cab.
historic **historical**	**Historic** refers to something in history that was important: The summit was a historic meeting between the countries.
	Historical refers to anything in general history: The whole class had to dress in historical costumes for the play.
hoard **horde**	**Hoard** means "to collect and keep for oneself": Squirrels hoard acorns during the winter.
	A **horde** is a large group: Hordes of people go Christmas shopping the day after Thanksgiving.
hole **whole**	A **hole** is a gap or space: A moth made a hole in my sweater.
	Whole means "complete": Stu Beef ate the whole pizza himself!
home **hone**	**Home** in is the correct phrase here is when referring to getting closer to a goal or target: The missile homed in electronically on the target.
	Hone means "to sharpen": Denise made a resolution to hone her piano playing skills.

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• I •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
i. e. **e. g.**	See e. g., i. e.
illicit **elicit**	See elicit, illicit.
illusion **allusion**	See allusion, illusion.
immemorial **immortal** **immoral**	**Immemorial** refers to that which is beyond time, ancient: These artifacts have been here since time immemorial. **Immortal** describes things that live forever: The way Randolph drives, he must think that he is immortal. **Immoral** means "not nice, unethical, bad": Stealing is immoral.
immoral **amoral**	See amoral, immoral.
immigrant **emigrant**	See emigrant, immigrant.
immigrate **emigrate**	See emigrate, immigrate.
imminent **eminent,** **emanant**	See eminent.

implicate, imply	**Implicate** means "to closely link or connect": The blood on his hands implicated him in the murder.
	Imply means "to point to, or suggest indirectly": The victim's friend implied he thought he knew who the murderer was.
implicit explicit	See explicit, implicit.
imply infer	**Imply** means "to suggest indirectly": Her hesitation implied that her answer was no.
	Infer means "to draw a conclusion from known facts": He inferred that the answer was no from her hesitation.
in regard to as regards	Both of these mean "referring to", but use one or the other: In regard to your proposal I have an idea, or: As regards your proposal, I have an idea. NOT in regards to!
inchoate incoherent	**Inchoate** describes something in an early stage of development, and that is incomplete: Lucy's plan remained inchoate and was developed no further.
	Incoherent describes something that is lacking connection or order: Some even thought that Lucy's plan was just a few incoherent thoughts that didn't hang together.
incredible incredulous	**Incredible** means "astonishing or difficult to grasp": The incredible power of a tornado attracts storm chasers.
	Incredulous means "skeptical and disbelieving": She was incredulous about Fred's interpretation of the event.
induction deduction	See deduction, induction.
innervate	See enervate, innervate.

enervate	
insure **ensure** **assure**	See assure, ensure, insure.
intolerable **intolerant**	**Intolerable** refers to something unbearable: The heat during the summer of 2005 was intolerable. **Intolerant** refers to a person who is unable to accept differences in opinion, habit, or belief: Maybelle is intolerant of anyone who chews with their mouth open.
irregardless **regardless**	**Regardless** is the correct word to use, meaning "without regard": The young man left regardless of the warnings. **Irregardless** is a double negative that should be avoided.
its **it's**	**Its** is the possessive form of it, like hers, his, and theirs: The dog licked its foot after stepping in maple syrup. **It's** is short for 'it is', a contraction of those two words: "Well, I guess it's [it is] time to wash the dog again."

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• J •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
jibe **gibe** **gybe**	See gibe, gybe, jibe.

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• K •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
kind of **sort of**	Avoid these expressions in the sense of "somewhat", "rather" or "a little" (especially avoid reducing them to **kinda** and **sorta**). The pace of the baseball game was rather [not **kind of**] slow.
knew **new**	**Knew** is the past tense of know: She knew what she wanted to say but couldn't say it.
	New means "never used": I ordered a new custom car from the factory today.

• | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z | •

• L •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
latent **patent**	**Latent** means "present but not visible or active": Just because I'm not in bed doesn't mean that I don't have a latent virus.
	Patent means "visible, active, or obvious": The claim that I pinched Marilyn's tush is a patent lie!
later **latter**	**Later** means "afterward": Come later than seven o'clock.
	Latter means "the last of two things mentioned": If I have to choose between brains or beauty, I'll take the latter.
lay **lie**	**Lay** is a transitive verb, which means it takes an object. It means "to set or put down flat": Gwendolyn laid child in the crib, or Lay a book on the table, please. Its forms are *lay, lays, laid, has laid*, and *is laying*.

	Lie is an intransitive verb, so it does not take an object. It means "to rest supine or remain in a certain place": I have to lie down because I'm not feeling well, or I like to lie in the grass for hours. Its forms are *lie, lies, lay, has lain*, and *is lying*.
lead **led**	**Lead** can be a verb meaning "to guide, be in charge of": Greg will lead a group this afternoon. It can also be a noun meaning "a type of metallic element": Use a lead pencil to fill in your answer sheet.
	Led is the past tense of *lead*: Greg led the group this afternoon.
lend **loan** **borrow**	**Lend** is a verb that mean "to temporarily give something to someone": Lucy will lend or loan Chuck her books any day.
	A **loan** is a noun meaning something borrowed: Most people get a bank loan to buy a house. Loan is also used in American English as a verb meaning "to lend".
	Borrow is to receive something from someone temporarily: Can I borrow the book if I promise to return it tomorrow?
less **few**	See few, less.
lessen **lesson**	**Lessen** means "to decrease or make less": She lessened the headache pain with aspirin.
	A **lesson** is something you learn: A teacher might say, "Today's lesson is about ancient Egypt."
liable **libel**	**Liable** means "legally responsible for or subject to": Tom is liable to pay for the damage if he doesn't prove his innocence.
	Libel is a noun that means "a slanderous statement that damages another person's reputation": Bertrand was sued for libel for what he printed

	about Phil Anders.
lightening **lightning**	**Lightening** is a verb that means "to reduce the weight of": My course load needs lightening if I am to complete this course successfully.
	Lightning refers to the electrical discharge in the sky: Fred captured the image of a bolt of lightning on film.
like **as**	See as, like.
literally **figuratively**	See figuratively, literally.
lithe **blithe**	See blithe, lithe.
loathe **loath**	**Loathe** is a verb meaning "to detest or dislike greatly": Janice loathes animal cruelty.
	Loath is an adjective meaning "reluctant, unwilling": Lance was loath to ask for an extension on his term paper that semester.
loose **lose**	**Loose** is not tight: A loose-fitting jacket was more suitable than a shawl.
	Lose is to misplace and not be able to find: I often lose my bearings when entering a new city. Thank goodness I don't lose my keys though!

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• M •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
manner	**Manner** is a way of doing or behaving: Duane Pipes installed the plumbing in a workman-like

manor	manner.
	A **manor** is a house on an estate: The chauffeur drove slowly up to the manor.
mantel **mantle**	A **mantel** is the shelf above a fireplace, or face of one: Matilda set several candles on the mantel.
	A **mantle** is a cloak or blanket: Velma grabbed her mantle before heading out the door.
marital **martial**	**Marital** refers to marriage: Bunny and Lance are having marital problems.
	Martial refers to war or warriors: Bunny has a black belt in martial arts.
marshal **marshall**	A **marshal** is an officer of highest ranking; it can mean "to arrange": The marshal gave orders to the troops.
	Marshall is a verb meaning "to together": Marshall marshaled enough strength to walk past the bar on his way home.
may be **maybe**	**May be** as two words means "might be": Your reading glasses may be on the night stand.
	Maybe is one word that means "perhaps": Maybe your reading glasses are on the night stand.
me **myself**	**Me** is used as a simple object: Susan told my brother and me about her trip to Africa.
	Myself is a reflexive and an emphatic pronoun: I talk to myself [reflexive] or you can do that yourself [emphatic].
meet **mete** **meat**	**Meet** means "to get together or connect with someone, to encounter": Elroy plans to meet a colleague for lunch.
	Mete means "to distribute": We had to mete out the last of the water when we were still 20 miles from civilization on our hiking trip.

	Meat is flesh that may be eaten: Nathan is a vegetarian who doesn't eat meat at all.
militate **mitigate**	**Militate** means "to influence toward or against a change": The banality of Rhoda Book's stories militated against their becoming popular.
	Mitigate means "to lessen, make easier, or bearable": A cold compress on your leg will mitigate the swelling.
mordant **trenchant**	**Mordant** is bitingly sarcastic: Everyone hated Raymond's mordant comments.
	Trenchant means "forceful and keen": Raymond received trenchant criticism from everyone for his comments.
most **almost**	See almost, most.
mute **moot**	**Mute** means "having no sound or without speech": He was struck mute by the horror of the events.
	Moot as a noun is a public meeting; as an adjective, the more common usage, means "open to debate" in the UK and "not open to debate" in the US. It is most often used in the phrase *moot point*: When Walter walked in, the question of who was going to pick him up became moot.

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• N •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
no **know**	**No** means "the opposite of yes": They all said no in response to the latest referendum.
	To **know** is to understand are realize: I don't want to know how you got up the tree.

noisome **noisy**	**Noisome** means "disgusting, offensive, and potentially harmful": A noisome smell arose from the garbage can.
	Noisy means "making a lot of sound or racket": With so many children, it became a noisy day care center.
nonplussed	**Nonplussed** is often misused in the sense of "calm and unbothered". The actual meaning is "confused or bewildered": She was nonplussed by her husband's unusual behavior.
nowhere **nowheres**	See anyway, anywhere, nowhere; anyways, anywheres, nowheres.

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• O •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
obeisance **obsequious**	**Obeisance** is respect and homage paid someone: Farina greeted the queen with sincere obeisance.
	Obsequiousness is submissiveness and an eagerness to obey: The obsequiousness of the waiter made them roll their eyes.
obtuse **abstruse**	**Obtuse** means "lacking quickness of wit or sensitivity, dull, dense": Brandon is so obtuse he doesn't even know when he is being insulted.
	Abstruse means "too difficult to understand for the average mind": The professor presented an abstruse metaphysical concept that went over our heads.
one another **each other**	See each other, one another.

overdo **overdue**	**Overdo** is to exaggerate something: Marcy overdoes her makeup every morning and she ends up looking like a clown.
	Overdue indicates something that has missed its deadline: You must return these overdue books to the library immediately, or A visit to our grandparents is long overdue.

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• P •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
pamper **pander**	To **pamper** is to coddle, or treat with indulgence: The only time my mom pampers me is when I'm sick.
	To **pander** is to cater to the base needs of others, to sell out: Senator Throckmorton got elected by pandering to special interest groups.
passed **past**	**Passed** is the past tense of pass, to go by or move ahead of: The boys passed through town quickly.
	Past is a place in time that was before now: You would be wise to reflect on the past and learn from it.
pasture **pastor**	A **pasture** is a place where farm animals graze: Al Falfa puts his cows out into the pasture every morning.
	A **pastor** is a member of the clergy, a minister of a church: Noah Sarque is the pastor of the local Baptist Church.
patent **latent**	See latent, patent.
patience	**Patience** is the ability to remain calm even when

patients	dealing with someone or something difficult: The teacher showed infinite patience for the students struggling with the reading material. (See also **assistance** and **assistants**.)
	Patients are people who are sick in a hospital: The nurse had several new patients to get to know that week.
peace **piece**	**Peace** is a sense of calm and absence of war or hostility: We all hope for peace throughout the world.
	A **piece** is a part or segment of something: Helen Highwater lost a piece of her jewelry in church last Sunday.
peek **pique** **peak**	To **peek** is to look quickly without someone knowing: The child peeked inside the gift.
	To **pique** is to arouse or provoke: Muriel's comment piqued Abner's curiosity. Pique can also be used as a noun meaning "resentment": Sedgewick felt a bit of pique at the association of his name with their real estate scheme.
	A **peak** is the highest point of something: Chastity decided not to drive to the top of Pike's Peak during the peak summer vacation season.
peer **pier**	To **peer** is to squint and gaze strongly at: Melvin had to peer through fog to keep the car on the highway.
	a **peer** is an equal: Farnsworth didn't consider anyone his peer when it came to the game of tiddledy winks.
	A **pier** is a walkway that juts into a body of water for docking: to he docked his boat at the end of the pier.
penultimate **ultimate**	**Penultimate** means "the next to the last (the ultimate)": Little did Al Pacca know that the penultimate shrimp he ate was the one that gave

	him food poisoning.
	Ultimate is the last or best: I found the ultimate gift for Gary this year.
perspective **prospective**	A **perspective** is a view from a certain place or position or a mental outlook: The perspective from this building is spectacular, or Lydia Potts has a wonderful perspective on life considering the fact that she has 12 kids.
	Prospective is an adjective that means "possible, likely to happen": We have several prospective opportunities before us.
persuade **convince**	See convince, persuade.
phase **faze**	See faze, phase.
piquant **pique**	**Piquant** means "pleasantly tart or spicy": This restaurant serves a piquant salsa that is absolutely delicious.
	To **pique** is to arouse or provoke: Grunella piqued Vern's curiosity with her question. (See also peek.)
plain **plane**	**Plain** means "simple not showy" or "a large level region": It was plain to see that Vanessa loved Conway, or Bowser's farm was on a great plain where wheat grew well.
	A **plane** is a flat and level surface, a new level, or an airplane: To understand the equation of a plane surface in mathematics you have to reach a new plane of consciousness. Franklin landed the plane successfully.
portent **potent**	A **portent** is a noun meaning "an omen or prophetic sign of the future": Ivan Oder took falling out of bed that morning as a portent of a greater disaster in the future.

	Potent is an adjective meaning "strong and powerful": Arnold was a potent man, even at seventy, but could not handle the potent martinis Bella Donna made.
pour **pore** **pore**	To **pour** is to dispense liquid from one container into another: She poured some milk into the glass. A **pore** is to study or read intensely: Hilda pored over the materials nightly. **Pore** also means "a small opening in skin through which moisture or air moves": Pores are all over our bodies.
practical **practicable**	**Practical** refers to being easily used and put into practice: A Swiss Army knife has many practical uses. **Practicable** means "feasible or possible": It is not always practicable for a busy person to use this tool.
precede **proceed**	The verb **precede** means "to come or go before, in front of": The flower girl preceded the bride in the procession down the aisle. **Proceed** means "to move forward": Both the flower girl and the bride proceeded down the aisle at the same time.
premise **premises**	A **premise** usually means "assumption": Since the basic premise was wrong, all the conclusions based on it were wrong, too. **Premises** are a house or building and the grounds around it: Smoking is not allowed on the premises.
presence **presents**	**Presence** means "the state of being near": April's presence was comforting in Rod's time of sorrow. **Presents** are gifts: The greatest gift is to let someone give you a present.
principal	A **principal** is the head of a professional business or

principle	school: The principal of the middle school is a woman of principles.
	A **principle** is a belief: I avoid school principals as a matter of principle.
profit **prophet**	**Profit** is the money earned above the expense it took to complete the project: Ghislaine and Pierre made a $100,000 profit when they remodeled and sold their house.
	A **prophet** is a person who can foretell the future and through which a divine presence speaks: Atheism is a non-prophet religion.
profligate **prolific**	**Profligate** is to be wasteful and extravagant: Esmeralda is so profligate that she spent the entire million dollars she won in the lottery in one year.
	Prolific means "abundant, fruitful, producing much": John Grisham is a prolific writer.

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• Q •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
quiet **quite**	**Quiet** means "without sound or mention of": You are supposed to be quiet in hospitals and libraries.
	Quite can mean either "completely or somewhat, rather", depending on what you mean: I was quite alone that Saturday afternoon (completely) but the hours passed quite quickly (rather).
quote **quotation**	**Quote** is a verb meaning "to state the exact words someone else said": The pastor quoted scripture from the Bible or Carmen quoted a famous psychologist in complaining to the boss.
	A **quotation** is the actual statement being quoted: Gretchen read a quotation every day.

• R •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
rain **reign** **rein**	**Rain** is the water that falls from the sky: Dingwell didn't have sense enough to come in out of the rain.
	Reign is the rule of a king of queen: King Wilhelm reigned with an iron fist to keep peace in the land.
	A **rein** (usually plural, *reins*) are the straps of leather used to control and guide a horse: No matter how hard Reginald pulled on the reins, the horse would not slow down.
raise **raze**	**Raise** means "to build or grow": The farmer raises corn. The Amish will raise the walls of a building by noon.
	Raze is to destroy: The school was razed and a new one built in its place.
real **really**	**Real** is a variant of *really* used in dialectal areas (like the Southern US) where adverbs are not distinguished from adjectives: She sings real good, in standard English is: She sings really well.
	Really is an intensifying adverb: Gwendolyn was really tired after playing outside all day.
reality **realty**	**Reality** means "the perceived world as it is, the true situation": She could not tell the difference between reality and fantasy.
	Realty is land or real estate: Realty in large cities is markedly expensive.
rebate **refund**	A **rebate** is a discount from the manufacturer to the customer after a purchase has been made: The $600 computer cost only $69.43 after all the

	rebates.
	A **refund** is a full repayment to a dissatisfied customer: Mildred returned her girdle and demanded a full refund.
regimen **regiment**	**Regimen** is a systematic plan: Sylvia is undergoing a regimen for a healthier lifestyle.
	Regiment is a troop of soldiers: The army is made up of several regiments.
residence **residents**	A **residence** is where people live, the house or building: The mayor's residence is located in the center of the city.
	The **residents** are the people who live there: The residents of the community thinks the mayor's residence is to luxurious.
respectable **respectful** **respective**	**Respectable** means "deserving respect or on good behavior": Mother always told us to be respectable in public.
	Respectful refers to showing respect: Be respectful of the people around you, especially if they have sticks.
	Respective means "individual and appropriate": The summer camp kids were shown to their respective cabins.
respectfully **respectively**	**Respectfully** means "politely and with respect": Mel Pew always dealt respectfully with each and every customer.
	Respectively refers to the order in which things are given: I gave Wallace and Linda blue and green socks, respectively, means that I gave Wallace blue socks and Linda green ones.
restive **restful**	**Restive** means "impatient and nervous, restless": Cory became restive once he knew the boss was going to call him into his office.
	Restful means "full of rest, calm, quiet, and

	restorative": A restful vacation in Indonesia was just what the doctored ordered.
retch **wretch**	To **retch** is to try and vomit: Furman retched several times after swallowing a bite of Lurleen's liver pudding.
	A **wretch** is a miserable or wicked person: I didn't believe she could be such a wretch.
rifle **riffle**	**Rifle** means to search with the intention of stealing or taking: The mugger rifled Clarissa's purse looking for cash.
	To **riffle** means "to shuffle or flip quickly through papers": Bill riffled the card deck before dealing.
right **rite** **write**	**Right** means "correct": She always knew the right thing to say.
	A **rite** is a ceremony: Final rites for the deceased were held in the church.
	To **write** is to express oneself in writing: Rhoda Book writes everyone about her publishing career.
rise **raise**	**Rise** is intransitive and does not have an object: The sun rises in the east.
	Raise always has an object: You can raise a crop on a farm or raise your hand in class.
road **rode**	**Road** is a long path or street to travel on: Lucille tries to stay on a main road wherever she travels.
	Rode is past tense of ride: Matilda rode her bicycle over a cliff by accident.
role **roll**	A **role** is a part in a play or movie: Marjorie's favorite role of her entire movie career was that of the quirky neighbor in *Keep your Doors Locked*. It can also mean "a function of": Marjorie's role in removing the insignia from the police car door was minor.

	Roll is a verb meaning "to turn over and over": Diane rolled the flat tire into the garage.

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• S •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
sale **sail**	A **sale** is a noun meaning "the selling of something": Every car sale means a commission for the salesman. A **sail** is the material used to catch wind on a boat: The sail billowed in the wind as Jacob's boat slid across the water.
sale **sell**	A **sale** is a noun meaning "the selling of something": Every car sale means a commission for the salesman. To **sell**, the verb, is to offer goods for consumption at a cost: Seth sells his pottery at art fairs.
sanguine **saturnine**	**Sanguine** means "red, ruddy or optimistic": I am not sanguine about your getting this job. **Saturnine** means "being moody, sullen, or melancholy": Ima Aiken falls into a saturnine mood every time her husband Hadley goes away on business.
scene **seen**	**Scene** is a place or view: The scene of the crime was just outside his window. **Seen** is past tense of see: I have seen that movie three times already.
seam **seem**	A **seam** is where two pieces are joined: The seam of Leticia's dress ripped when she bent over. To **seem** is to appear or look as if: Leticia seemed unhappy when that happened.

semimonthly bimonthly	See bimonthly, semimonthly.
sensor censor censure	See censor, sensor, censure.
sensual sensuous	**Sensual** refers to physical, especially sexual, pleasure: Derry Yare wears sensual dresses to attract men. **Sensuous** refers to anything artistic that appeals to the senses or appetites: Marguerita had prepared a sensual feast for her guests.
serf surf	A **serf** is a slave or servant: Neil Downe came from a family of serfs but rose to become a landlord. **To surf** is to ride the waves of water, or to search on the Internet: The surf is up down at the beach; ou can surf the Internet some other time.
set sit seat	**Set** is a transitive verb meaning "to put or place something solid somewhere": Marvin set his new lamp on the table. **Sit** means "to rest upright with the weight on the buttocks or to move into such a position"; the past tense is *sat*: Percy sat down beside Geneva on the park bench. **Seat** can be a verb meaning "to show someone their seat or where to sit": The waiter seated Murgatroyd at his usual table by the door.
sever severe	**Sever** means "to cut through completely": One blow from Jessie's hatchet severed the rope. **Severe** means "strict, hard, extreme": Severe winter weather came early this year. There was a severe tone in Marilyn's voice when she berated Todd for putting the tack in her chair.

shear **sheer**	**Shear** means "to cut off": We shear sheep's wool in the spring and we shear the hedges in the summer.
	Sheer means "pure, unadulterated": Felicity found the amusement park a sheer pleasure. Sheer also means "transparent": Perry Winkle hung sheer curtains in the living room.
shore **sure**	A **shore** is a beach: to spend a vacation on the shore. It also means "to brace or support": They shored up the leaning wall with steel beams.
	Sure means "without doubt": Maria was sure about the decision to move to another country.
singly **singularly**	**Singly** means "one by one": The fire drill required everyone to leave the building quietly and singly.
	Singularly means "extraordinarily, in an outstanding manner": He singularly fought the rebels off one by one.
site **sight** **cite**	See cite, site, sight.
sleight-of-hand **slight-of-hand**	**Sleight of hand** refers to dexterity and trickery with the hands: The magician's sleight of hand fooled the audience.
	This phrase is often confused with **slight of hand**, an adjective phrase meaning "having small slender hands".
sole **soul**	**Sole** means "single": The sole remaining person in the room left, leaving it empty. It also means the bottom of a foot or shoe: Gigi needed new soles on her shoes.
	A **soul** refers to the spirit of a living creature: Do you believe animals have souls?
some time	**Some time** refers to a considerable period of time: I

sometime **sometimes**	need some time to think about it.
	Sometime refers to an indistinct or unstated time in the future: I'll see you around sometime.
	Sometimes is an adverb meaning continually, off and on, occasionally: Karen sometimes drinks coffee instead of tea.
stationary **stationery**	**Stationary** means "still and unmoving": The cat was stationary until it was time to pounce on its prey.
	Stationery refers to writing materials such as paper: Craig took out his best stationery to write to his beloved Charlotte Russe.
statue **statute** **stature**	A **statue** is a carved or shaped imitation of an object: There is a statue of a large bird is in her garden.
	A **statute** is law: The government publishes new statutes each year.
	Stature means "status, standing": Chester Drors is a man of substantial stature in state politics.
storey **story**	**Storey** is the British spelling of *story* when this word refers to a floor of a building: The upper storeys of the building comprised apartments. The US spelling of this sense of the word is also *story*.
	A **story** is a tale related in speech or writing by someone. In the US, it is also the spelling used to refer to the floor of a building: My home is three stories high.
straight **strait**	**Straight** is an adjective that means having "no bends or curve"s: Pimsley's walking cane is as straight as an arrow.
	A **strait** is a narrow channel connecting two bodies of water: The Bering Strait lies between Alaska and Siberia.
supposedly	**Supposedly** means "reputedly" or "likely to be true": Sam is supposedly the greatest waterboy in the

supposably	football team's history.
	Supposably means "can be supposed": The best solution to the problem is supposably to ignore it. (However, this word is seldom used.)

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• T •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
taut **taught**	**Taut** is a literary word that means "tight": Hold the string taut while I mark the line.
	Taught is the past tense of teach: Kenneth taught etiquette and good manners for several years.
tenant **tenet**	A **tenant** is someone who rents property: A new tenant moved into the vacant apartment last week.
	A **tenet** is a principle: The major tenets of all religions are similar.
than **then**	**Than** is used to compare: Philippa Byrd thinks she is smarter than any of us.
	Then is a word to describe a time that is not now: I prefer Friday; it would be better to meet then because then I will be ready.
their **there** **they're**	**Their** is possessive of they: The twins left their books at home.
	There refers to a place that is not here: We will be there in two hours.
	They're is a contraction for they are: They're going to a concert tonight.
theirself **theirselves**	Only **themselves** is correct as a reflexive or emphatic pronoun: They gave themselves all the credit for the rescue.

themself **themselves**	
threw **through**	Although these two words are pronounced the same, **threw** is the past tense of the verb *throw*, meaning "tossed, hurled in the air": Morty threw the keys to the car to McKinley.
	Through is a preposition meaning "entering the inside of something and coming out the other side": Chuck accidentaly threw a rock through Miss Conception's living room window.
throes **throws**	**Throes** are severe pains or difficult times: Wade Rivers found it difficult to listen to his iPod in the throes of battle.
	Throws is the plural or present tense of throw: Several throws later, Bud Light managed to put a wad of paper in the trash can from his desk.
til **till**	**Til** is a contraction of the preposition *until*: I won't see you til tomorrow. Only one L.
	Till is a verb meaning "to cultivate": My Uncle Emmet tills about half the land on his farm and herds cattle on the rest.
to **too** **two**	**To** is a preposition meaning "toward": We go to the lake every summer. It also serves as the infinitive particle for verbs: I want to stop confusing words.
	Too means "also": I'd love to go with you, too.
	Two is the number between one and three: We have two options: hire a divorce lawyer or a mortician.
torpid **turgid**	**Torpid** means "unresponsive, lacking alertness": Prunella tried to elicit answers from the torpid students in front of her.
	Turgid means "very ornate and decorative": The author's turgid writing style lost my interest quickly. It can also mean "swollen and bulging": Turgid

	veins covered her legs.
tortuous **torturous**	**Tortuous** means "winding, crooked, with many twists and turns": Wiley Driver was very adept at driving the tortuous mountain roads of western North Carolina.
	Torturous means "very painful, like torture": Mick Stupp found doing math homework torturous.

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• U •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
undoubtedly **undoubtably** **indubitably**	These three words may be used interchangeably, meaning "sure, without a doubt": Mildred was *undoubtedly*	*undoubtably*	*indubitably* the best ballet dancer of all time.
uninterested **disinterested**	See disinterested, uninterested.

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• V •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
vane **vain** **vein**	A **vane** is blade that rotates: I don't know how hard the wind blew; it blew the weather vane off the roof.
	Vain means "fruitless, hopeless, or without result": Bertie harbors a vain hope of becoming a world-class ice skater.
	Vein refers to the tubes that carry blood back to the heart: The veins are usually smaller than the arteries.

venal **venial**	**Venal** means "corruptible, money-grubbing, likely to accept bribes": Chris Cross is a man so venal he charged his mother for taking her to the hospital.
	Venial means "easily forgiven": The judge dismissed the venial crimes and focused on the theft of the chocolates.
verses **versus**	**Verses** is plural of verse, a line of poetry: several Emerson's verses were recited that evening.
	Versus means "in comparison or opposition to": The benefits of having a cell phone versus not having one depend on the individual.
vicious **viscous**	**Vicious** means "cruel and mean": A vicious dog attacked the young boy.
	Viscous means "thick and sticky": Honey and tar are viscous substances.

•|A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z|•

• WXYZ •

WORDS	DEFINITIONS & EXAMPLES
waist **waste**	**Waist** refers the (often) narrow area of a human body between the hips and ribs: We often wear a belt around our waist.
	Waste is garbage, or waste can be a verb meaning "to use carelessly": You shouldn't waste food and you should recycle waste paper.
wary **weary**	**Wary** means "leery and cautious": The customer became wary when the salesperson said he would personally guarantee the TV set for 100 years.
	Weary means "tired and worn": After a day of harvesting corn, the farmer was very weary.

wave **waive**	To **wave** is to move back and forth; a **wave** is a swelling in a body of water due to movement: Helen Highwater waved her hand to the boat rocking in the waves.
	Waive means "to give up, not require or ask for": Never waive your right to a lawyer.
weak **week**	**Weak** is not strong: Finley gave a weak performance; maybe because he has a weak mind.
	Week refers to the names of the seven days, from Sunday to Saturday: I go to the ice skating rink once a week.
wear **ware** **were** **we're**	**Wear** is a verb (wear, wore, worn) meaning to have clothing on: Maud Lynn Dresser always wears gaudy evening gowns on formal occasions.
	Ware is an article of merchandise, a product (usually used in the plural): The potter displayed her wares on a beautiful stand made by her husband.
	Were is past tense of are: Maud and her fiance were at the ball last weekend.
	We're is a contraction for we are: We're going to the ball this weekend so maybe we'll see them.
weather **whether**	**Weather** has to do with climate: I hope we have beautiful weather for my daughter's wedding.
	Whether means "if" and is used only inside sentences: I don't know whether to bring an umbrella or not.
wet **whet**	**Wet** is full of moisture: We had to dry out the wet sleeping bag on our camping trip after a sudden storm.
	Whet is to stimulate or arouse: Smelling the stew whetted her appetite.
which	**Which** means "what particular choice": Which

witch	witch put the spell on you?
	A **witch** is a person who believes in or practices magic: Not all witches have warts on their noses (some have them on their chins).
who's **whose**	**Who's** is a contraction for *who is*: Who's going to vote today?
	Whose is the possessive of *who* meaning "of whom": Whose tickets are these?
wont **won't**	**Wont** means "used to": Maggie was wont to getting everything her way and cried when she didn't.
	Won't is a contraction for will not: Maggie won't be getting every toy she wants this Christmas.
your **you're**	**Your** is possessive for you: Your idea is fantastic!
	You're is a contraction for you are: You're the most treasured person in my life.

THIS IS MY GIFT FOR ALL MY DEAR TEACHERS & ALL STUDENTS

MR . KHALED GAMAL AL DEMOHY

S. M OF ENGLISH >>>>>0104397001

MANSOURA